

## CLAIMS

*Sub A1*  
1. A method for the treatment or prevention of brain edema comprising administering to a subject in need of said treatment or prevention a composition for said treatment or prevention comprising melatonin in an effective amount for said treatment or prevention.

*Sub C2*  
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein melatonin is encapsulated in an encapsulating matrix or a liposome.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the subject is suffering from brain edema.

5. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the subject has the risk of suffering from brain ischemia.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the subject having the risk of suffering from brain ischemia is a subject suffering from cerebral thrombosis, cerebral embolism, cerebral infarction, cerebral hemorrhage, subarachnoid hemorrhage, transient brain ischemia, hyperlipemia, hypertension, cardiac arrest or brain contusion.

*Sub C3*  
7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition is orally administered.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition is a food composition.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the subject is suffering from brain edema.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the subject has the risk of suffering from brain ischemia.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the subject having the risk of suffering from brain ischemia is a subject suffering from cerebral thrombosis, cerebral embolism, cerebral infarction, cerebral hemorrhage, subarachnoid hemorrhage, transient brain ischemia, hyperlipemia, hypertension, cardiac arrest or brain contusion.

*add C4*  
12. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the food composition is selected from the group consisting of food, a food stuff and a composition comprising melatonin and an additive for incorporating melatonin in food.

*add C5*  
13. A pharmaceutical or food composition for the treatment or prevention of brain edema comprising melatonin in an effective amount for said treatment or prevention.

*add A2*  
14. Use of melatonin in the preparation of a pharmaceutical or food composition for the treatment or prevention of brain edema comprising melatonin in an effective amount for said treatment or prevention.